

want to do it, do it on their time and on their own dime.

□ 1615

REPORT CARD ON CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, what we have seen here in the House of Representatives today is truly remarkable. With the Federal fiscal year drawing to a close, the Republican leadership had a responsibility to put on President Clinton's desk 13 appropriations bills. How did they do?

Well, they got 2 of 13. Where I come from, 2 out of 13 is not a very good grade. In fact, I do not even know that it is high enough to earn an F. Down in Texas we would probably give it an F-minus for 2 of 13 bills, and the quality of Republican leadership that it represents. And when you look at those two bills, you find the quality is as sorry as the quantity.

The first bill they sent over there was the legislative appropriation, protect the Congress first, worry about the rest of the country last. And the second one was a military construction bill so loaded with pork barrel you could hear the pigs squeal all the way to Arlington, TX.

Today, this Republican leadership has had a truly unparalleled accomplishment, perhaps in the entire history of this country. They have come forward with conference reports on two appropriations bills for consideration in this House this afternoon, and they have had two appropriations conference reports defeated. Two up two down. Two very down. In fact, the last one of those appropriations bills, they could not even command a majority of the Republican Members, much less the Democrats.

So, here we are this afternoon, exactly 1 week after Speaker GINGRICH went up to New York and declared "I do not care what the price is. I do not care if we have no executive offices and no bonds for 60 days. Not this time."

We have had plenty of alarming rhetoric, but not very much responsible leadership. On appropriations, that leadership is 2 bills out of 13, as this fiscal year draws to a close this week-end.

Much of this is because at every stage in the budget process, the Federal Budget Act, the statute on the books, has been looked at as something to flaunt, something to ignore, something to violate from top to bottom. The keystone of this Republican plan to balance the budget is to take \$270 billion out of the Medicare system.

Can you believe that at this late date the Republicans at the end of the fiscal year have yet to even introduce the bill, to take that \$270 billion out of the pockets of America's seniors and America's disabled? They have not even filed

the bill that is the centerpiece of their budget.

From at least the first morning that the Committee on the Budget considered their budget, it was presented on a take-it-or-leave-it basis. Bipartisanship was out the window, because they had their plan and they were going to accomplish it no matter how many seniors or disabled people or people they viewed as powerless got in the way and got run over.

What about that great successful campaign ploy, the Contract on America? Well, they have not had quite as much success once they rolled it out here in the Congress. We have had 2 bills passed out of 11 in the planning. The first one was to repack a Democratic idea that would have been law at the beginning of this Congress if the Republicans had not killed it last time. It is called the Congressional Accountability Act. It is a good bill. It passed on day 1 of this Congress and became law.

The second, an unfunded mandates bill, which passed with significant Democratic support. We have a third bill, a line-item veto bill, but Speaker GINGRICH is afraid that President Clinton will use it to slash and slice out some of that pork barrel that has been put into the bill. So he held up and delayed appointing conferees for that bill.

So we have two bills passed, two bills dead and gone, and seven lingering somewhere in the legislative process.

But nowhere has the lack of leadership been more obvious than when it comes to lobby control, when it comes to gift ban, with the relationships between legislators and lobbyists, when it comes to ethics. There we find, as we have just heard this afternoon, that the lobbyists they want to control are the Girl Scouts, the National Council of Senior Citizens, Catholic Charities, and the YMCA.

What about the polluters, what about the lobbyists who keep writing special loopholes in the Tax Code? What about those that loaded up these bills with pork barrel? That lobby control is nowhere. It has not been brought to the floor of this House. And we have the chairman of the Committee on Ethics telling us in her own words this week the letter of the law is not compelling to me; my goal is to have a process that the committee members feel good about.

Well, America does not feel good about what this Congress is not doing or what it is doing, and the way it has ignored ethics and proceeded to pursue a right wing extremist agenda.

WELFARE FOR LOBBYISTS AND A BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. TATE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, once again on the issue of welfare for lobbyists,

the facts remain, the President of the United States does not want to balance the budget. My good friends across the aisle are not serious about wanting to balance the budget. The fact is the Republicans have shown a proposal to want to balance the budget. What I do not understand is when we are \$4.9 trillion in debt, and if my daughter Madeleine continues to live to 72, which she will live probably to 172, she will have to pay in her lifetime \$187,150 just to balance the budget.

So why in the world would we subsidize lobbying, when we have all of these other needs out there? Why would we provide taxpayer funds for lobbyists?

Basically in my district, as you can see, they are running advertising, \$85,000 in television ads and Medicare ads and telephone calling. But it is the National Council of Senior Citizens that shows up again as one of those groups that receives over \$70,000.

Mr. MCINTOSH. If the gentleman will yield, are you telling me this group who receives 96 percent of its funds from the Federal Government has bought television campaign ads in your district?

Mr. TATE. That is absolutely correct.

Mr. MCINTOSH. That is incredible. No wonder it is difficult to get to a balanced budget when you have all these federally subsidized lobbyists out there fighting us tooth and nail.

Mr. TATE. The point to keep in mind is we are sending out tax dollars to groups to lobby for more of our tax dollars. There is something wrong there.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, also a member of the subcommittee that held the hearing yesterday.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. I would like to thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to talk a little bit about some of the testimony we have heard. I do not remember the exact number, Chairman MCINTOSH, of hours of hearings we have had about this issue, but there are several things that surprise me, and frankly just shock me, in the testimony we have heard.

First of all, there are, in fact, groups out there receiving over 96 percent of their entire budget in Federal grants and then turning around and engaging almost exclusively in what I would describe as political activity. That is shocking enough.

But I will tell you what surprises me even more, and that is that some groups have come to Washington and have lobbied against this bill, and some good groups that do good things that we all know the names of, the YMCA, the Boy Scouts, that they would come to Washington and in effect defend this kind of activity. This is an affront I think to every taxpayer. It is in an affront to every democratic loving American, that groups can literally use and abuse the taxpayers' money to advance